



Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities

Advancing priorities through research and partnerships

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is a partnership program developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to stimulate innovative research and improve workplace safety practices. NORA is a framework for occupational safety and health research in the nation. NORA is divided into 8 sectors. Each has a sector council that develops a national agenda based on critical issues identified in workplace safety and health. The agenda includes goals and an implementation plan for addressing the occupational safety and health issues in the sector.

There are over 7 million workers in the *Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (TWU)* industries. The *Transportation* sector includes industries that transport passengers and cargo; scenic and sightseeing transportation; and support activities for transportation. The *Warehousing* sector covers industries providing warehousing and storage of goods. The *Utilities* sector includes industries which provide, service, and distribute electric power, natural gas, steam supply, water supply, and sewage removal.

TWU Non-fatal Occupational Illnesses

In 2007, the occupational illness rate for the TWU sectors was 23.5 per 10,000 workers. Workers in these industries are at-risk for illnesses and diseases from harmful exposures or work environment. Examples of exposures known to cause illness include diesel exhaust, infectious agents, and vibration. Known worker health concerns related to work environment include cardiovascular disease, obesity, and smoking habits.

TWU Non-fatal Occupational Injuries

In 2007, the combined *Transportation and Warehousing* sectors had the highest rate of private industry occupational injuries involving days away from work (DAFW) at 2.6 per 10,000 workers. Workers in these industries are at-risk for non-fatal injuries including overexertion, contact with objects, and falls. TWU occupations with higher injury rates involving DAFW include flight attendants at 6.3 and electrical power-line installers at 2.4.

TWU Occupational Fatalities

Occupations in the TWU sector account for 5% of U.S. workers but 15% of all workplace fatalities. Workers in these industries are at-risk for fatal injuries including transportation incidents, struck by objects or equipment, electrocution, and falls. In 2007, the work-related fatality rate for the *Transportation and Warehousing* sectors was over 3 times the national average at 14.3 deaths per 100,000 workers. The *Utilities* sector work-related fatality rate was 3.9 in 2007.

Non fatal Injury Event by Selected TWU Sub sectors, 2007

Industry Sub-sector	Primary Event or Exposure	Non-fatal Injury Rate involving DAFW (per 10,000 workers)
Air	Overexertion (37%) Contact with Objects (22%)	5.2
Couriers and Messengers	Overexertion (33%) Contact with Objects (21%)	3.3
Rail	Falls (17%) Contact with Objects (16%)	1.5
Trucking	Overexertion (24%) Contact with Objects (21%)	2.6
Warehousing	Overexertion (31%)	2.1
Utilities	Falls (24%)	1.2

Fatal Event by Selected TWU Sub sectors, 2007

Industry Sub-sector	Primary Event or Exposure	Fatal Injury Rate (per 100,000 workers)
Water	Transportation Incidents (61%)	33.4
Trucking	Transportation Incidents (80%)	28.6
Transit/ Ground Passenger	Transportation Incidents (48%) Assaults (46%) -83% of assaults occur in the taxi and limousine industries	21.1
Warehousing	Struck by Objects and Equipment (39%) Transportation Incidents (30%)	7.3
Utilities	Exposure to harmful substances or environments (33%) Transportation Incidents (20%)	3.9



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness.

TWU Sector Council

The mission of the TWU Sector Council is *to implement a focused program of surveillance, research, and the development of interventions that lead to prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in this industry sector.*

The TWU Sector Council includes representatives from Federal agencies, State agencies, non-profit organizations, academia, unions, industry, trade associations, and private consultants. The TWU Sector Council developed a national agenda with strategic goals for the Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities sector organized by outcomes such as injuries and illnesses. This national agenda includes intermediate and activity goals along with performance measures to guide attainment of the strategic goals. The intention of the TWU national agenda is to stimulate and provide direction for occupational safety and health research.

- **Traumatic Injuries:** Reduce lost-workday occupational traumatic injury and fatality rates in the TWU sector.
- **Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders:** Reduce the incidence and severity of work-related musculoskeletal disorders among workers in the TWU sector.
- **Health and Wellness:** Improve health and reduce premature mortality among TWU workers through workplace programs and practices that: (1) enable workers to engage in healthy behaviors; (2) reduce work-related physiological and psychological stressors; and (3) improve healthcare utilization.
- **Exposures:** Identify, evaluate, and reduce chemical, biological, and physical occupational hazards and exposures to limit occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the TWU sector.
- **Economics and Fatigue:** Economics and the impact of fatigue are also consistently identified as two other important areas of concern as they relate to occupational injuries and illnesses of TWU workers. These two areas are addressed within the four above strategic areas.



You Can Help

1. You can provide feedback on the TWU agenda.
2. You can become actively involved in the implementation of the TWU agenda.
3. You can identify research or activities in your organization that applies to one or more of the strategic goal areas.
4. Your organization can become involved in research or activities in one or more of the strategic goal areas.

The Sector Council meets twice a year. Other contacts are made through e-mail, conference calls, and web-based meetings. The Council relies on a group of corresponding members for their expert input and feedback on the TWU agenda. Corresponding members receive e-mails on the progress of the TWU agenda and are asked to participate in workgroup meetings via conference calls, web-based meetings or during the council meetings.

For further information or to discuss opportunities for involvement, please contact:

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TWU Sector Information

NORA Website

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/>

NIOSH TWU Program Portfolio Website

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/twu/>

TWU Agenda

The TWU agenda is a dynamic document and comments are always welcome as they can be addressed in future revisions.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/comment/agendas/transwareutil/pdfs/TransWareUtilAug2009.pdf>